

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Tuesday, January 7 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, January 3, at 3:34 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, John Titsworth, Travis Read, Robert Karr, Buddy Garvin & Steve Harrison

Absent: None

Presiding: Steve Harrison, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Mayor Harrison stated that the first item on the agenda was an Executive Session, in accordance with Section 307.B.1, to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any salaried public officer or employee: Interview Candidates for Ward 6 Councilperson and he asked for a motion and second.

Vice-Mayor Read commented that he would prefer the proceedings for the selection of the Ward 6 Councilman be done in open session.

There was discussion among the Council including the City Attorney concerning the Executive Session, the appointment of the Councilman, what the Open Meeting Act existed for, protecting the privacy of the individual applicants, what the Council preferred to do in this situation and encouraging all of the applicants to run for the office.

1. Section 307 (B) (1) - Discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any salaried public officer or employee: Interview Candidates for Ward 6 Councilperson.

There was no further discussion, and the Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Karr for an Executive Session to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any salaried public officer or employee: Interview Candidates for Ward 6 Councilperson, in accordance with Title 25, Sec. 307.B.1. There was no discussion and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith & Karr

NAY: Councilman Titsworth, Read, Garvin & Mayor Harrison

Mayor Harrison declared the motion failed and the interviews would be conducted in open session.

Mayor Harrison explained that he had asked the City Clerk to prepare a list of the applicant's names in random order to be interviewed. He suggested that as each candidate was called they introduced themselves and make an opening statement. The applicants were called in the following order; Mark Pool, Cletis Lowe, Jr., Marsha Coyle, Jason Barnett, Louis Smitherman and Jane Rayburn. Mr. Pool and Ms. Rayburn were not in attendance at the meeting.

Each of the candidates introduced themselves giving background information, and explaining why they were interested in serving as Ward 6 Councilperson. The candidates answered various questions, from the Council, which included ideas to improve the City of McAlester, if they

planned on running for the Ward 6 seat in the coming election, if they foresaw any schedule conflicts with the Council meeting schedules and Special meetings, their opinion of giving economic incentives to prospective businesses, ideas to address the City's street and infrastructure problems and if they felt they were eligible to run for the Council seat.

Mayor Harrison expressed his appreciation toward each of the candidates for coming forward. He then explained that he would rather have candidates nominated and then have each Councilman vote for the individual they preferred.

- **Consider, and act upon, appointment of Ward 6 Councilperson.** (*Steve Harrison, Mayor*)

After a brief discussion, concerning including the individuals that had not attended the Special Mayor Harrison asked for nominations for Ward 6 Council seat.

Councilman Titsworth moved to nominate Jason Barnett for Ward 6 Councilman. The nomination was seconded by Councilman Smith. There were no other nominations and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Titsworth, Smith, Read, Karr, Garvin & Mayor Harrison

NAY: None

Mayor Harrison declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Read moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Read, Smith, Karr, Garvin, Titsworth & Mayor Harrison

NAY: None

Mayor Harrison declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

ATTEST:

Steve Harrison, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk